

Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511
110 Randolph Road
P.O. Box 1268
Middletown, CT 06457

Written Testimony of Loyola Welsh, Education Director, CEUI, SEIU Local 511, Before the
Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 2nd, 2009, Testimony in Support

HB 6572 and SB 919

Our Union wholeheartedly supports the use of safer chemical products. We have been involved in the Safer Chemicals Alternatives movement for several years. Our Chief Stewards and Safety Stewards have been trained in the history of the chemical reform movement. We are aware that Europe is already using the REACH program. Connecticut needs to be part of the movement.

It is time for Connecticut to legislate safer chemical use for our citizens. Our Union has a program to educate our members who are custodians about the benefits of using safer cleaning products. Our members are benefitting each day from working in a healthier environment.

Our training has informed us about the dangers involved in the use of Bisphenol-A in children's and food products. Our concern is for the the health and safety of our members on the job as well as for their families. We also support the phasing out of Polybrominated Diphenol Ethers. There are other flame retardants available that are safer to use.

The good news is that solutions exist to our chemical exposure issues. It is time for Connecticut to act to ban these harmful substances.

Loyola Welsh, Education Director
CEUI, SEIU Local 511
110 Randolph Road
P.O. Box 1268
Middletown, CT 06457

Home address:
211 Pomeroy Ave.
Apt. 2419
Meriden, CT 06450